

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The applicants thank the Examiner for his repeated interviews and guidance directed toward allowance of this case. During these interviews all pending matters were discussed and agreement was reached. **Claims 1, 5, and 18-20** were previously cancelled. **Claims 2 & 21** are to be amended. Thus, **Claims 2-4, 6-17, and 21-24** are currently pending in the application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby requested.

Objections to the Claims

**Claim 2** is to be amended by the Examiner to include the limitation of : "wherein said nanostructure whiskers have a length dimension of less than about 100 nanometers"

**Claim 21** is also to be amended by Examiner Amendment to include the limitation of : "and wherein the whiskers have a length of less than about 100 nanometers". Accordingly, it is believed that all pending claims (including claims 2 & 21) are now in condition for allowance.

Allowed Claims:

**Claims 2-4, 6-17, 23, and 24** have been allowed in this the application. Additionally, as amended, **Claims 21 and 22** are believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, **Claims 2-4, 6-17, and 21-24** are all believed to be in condition for allowance. All other claims are cancelled without prejudice.

Conclusion:

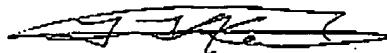
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention as presently presented is patentable over the art of record and that this case is now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner, for any reason, wish to contact the undersigned, he is cordially

invited to do so at his convenience. Moreover, if the Examiner has any continuing concerns regarding this case, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (650) 961-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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